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PRESS RELEASE

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Two District Men Found Guilty in Slaying of Witness - Victim Was To Testify in Maryland Fraud Case -

WASHINGTON - Calvin Tinsley and Edward Washington II, both of the District, were found guilty by a jury today of first degree murder and other charges in the killing of Malcolm Heath, a witness who was to testify against Washington in a criminal fraud trial. Today's verdict, following a nine-day trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, was announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.

The Honorable Gerald I. Fisher, who presided over the trial, is scheduled to sentence the defendants on Nov. 19, 2010. Both face a minimum of 30 years in prison.

According to evidence presented at trial, Heath was a witness against Washington in a criminal fraud case that was scheduled to go to trial in Upper Marlboro on September 10, 2007. The evidence showed that, on the morning of September 8, 2007, Tinsley shot Heath, 41, five times at close range, in front of 1218 Mount Olivet Road NE, Washington, D.C., where the victim ran a car repair shop.

Washington had been charged with fraud and identity theft in connection with a scheme to steal the identity of former National Football League player Orlando Brown. Shortly before the trial date, Washington learned that Heath was a witness against him. He then solicited Tinsley to kill the victim.

Both defendants were found guilty of first degree murder, while armed, with aggravating circumstances. Tinsley, 39, also was found guilty of weapons offenses, and Washington, 36, also was found guilty of solicitation of murder.

In announcing the verdicts, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Park Police, the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Liebman and Erin Lyons, the trial prosecutors.

He also cited the work of Lt. Ozetta Posey and Detective Robert Cephas, the lead detective on the case, as well as Detectives Joshua Branson, Matthew Dailey, Eric Fenton, Anthony Greene, Gus Giannakoulis, Norma Horne and Eric Schuler, all from the Metropolitan Police Department.

U.S. Attorney Machen praised numerous other individuals who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department, including Sergeants Durriyyah Habeebullah and William White; Technicians Dwayne Mitchell, Ralph Nitz, Natasha Pettus, Stanley Rembish and Keith Slaughter; Officers Carolyn Kelley, Dwayne Moore, Robert Scippio and Lacey Wilkins; firearms examiner Rosolyn Brown, and fingerprint examiner Barbara Evans.

In addition, he acknowledged the work of Sergeants Terry Felt, Timothy Hodge and Jeffrey Jarboe and Detectives Patrick Fouty, Robert Freeman, Timothy McMorro, Gregory Monahan, and Robert Scherr, all of the U.S. Park Police, and Investigator Hallie Crance, of the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration.

Finally he acknowledged the efforts of a team from the U.S. Attorney's Office that, in addition to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Liebman and Lyons, included Investigator Durand Odom; Information Technology Specialists Paul Howell, William Henderson, Thomas Royal and Joe Calvarese; paralegals Kwasi Fields, Sandra Lane and Wanda Queen, victim advocate, and Marcey Rinker and Shawn Slade of the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit.

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